

[Translation]

Import of Homoeopathic Medicines

6361. SHRISANTOSHKUMARGANGWAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria fixed for the import of Homoeopathic medicines in India;

(b) whether any procedure for determining its sale price has been announced; and

(c) if not, the action being taken to make these medicines available to the consumers at reasonable price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) The import of Homoeopathic Medicine is governed by the Export and Import Policy, 1992-97, under which 'Homoeopathic Medicines and Drugs' can be imported freely.

(b) and (c). Homoeopathic Medicines are not covered under Drugs Price control Order, 1987.

Guru Gobind Singh Hospital, Delhi

6362. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foundation stone of Guru Gobind Singh Hospital has been laid in Delhi;

(b) if so, the progress of construction of the hospital; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to expedite the construction work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The boundary wall of the hospital has already been constructed. In order to expedite the construction work, Delhi Administration propose to take simultaneous action for approval of various concerned agencies as far as possible.

[English]

Monosodium Glutamate in Food

6363. DR. R. MALLU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

a) whether Government are aware of work done in South Australia and several other countries which clearly show that monosodium glutamate (MSG) in foods causes higher activity in children;

(b) whether many countries have banned the use of MSG;

(c) if so, the details thereof indicating the reasons for such ban;

(d) whether certain companies have been adding MSG to noodles and now they are also adding MSG to soups, both of which are popular dishes with children; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) As per some published reports based on studies, carried out in Australia, USA, UK and Denmark, on effect of consumption of MSG through food as well as through intra-venous administration, there is no indication that MSG in food causes

higher or hyper activity in children except to promote increase in appetite.

(b) and (c). According to information available, USA, EEC countries and many developed countries of Far East permit use of MSG in food.

(d) and (e). Monosodium Glutamate is permitted to be used in food upto an extent of 1 per cent with label declaration. Its use in any food for use by the infants below twelve months is not permitted.

As per information available, M/s. Nestlé India Ltd., is adding MSG in soups within the prescribed limit under label declaration but they are not adding MSG to noodles. No specific information about other companies using MSG in noodles and soups is available with this Ministry.

Cases of Forcible Tubectomy in Dehradun

6364. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of forcible tubectomy on women reported in Dehradun in 1991-92;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken against the arring officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Service Status of Commission Bearers

6365. SHRI ANBARASU ERA: Will the

Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to treat Commission Bearers of catering department as salaried bearers and to pay them benefits like annual increment, bonus and LTC etc. in view of judgement of Supreme Court in this regard;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALIKARJUN): (a) to (c). The Commission Bearers are not regular railway employees, hence they are not eligible for benefits such as annual increment, bonus etc. Some commission bearers are, however, being paid salary as per interim orders given by the Supreme Court.

[Translation]

Integrated Child Development Scheme

6366. SHRI SIMON MARANDI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the beneficiaries under Integrated Child Development Scheme in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Orissa are not getting proper nutrition regularly for a long time;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the assistance provided to various States for nutrition component of the Integrated Child Development Scheme during each of the last three years;

(d) whether the beneficiaries are not getting full benefits under this scheme and as a result of which the redtappism is on full